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Meeting of States Parties

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Notes verbales from the Government of Seychelles regarding the extension of the time period for submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Note by the Secretariat

1. On 29 December 2000, and earlier on 6 October 1998, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles addressed notes verbales to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Government of Seychelles is of the opinion that it was adversely affected by the late election of members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, and thus requests that consideration be given to an extension of time in which to submit particulars of the outer limits of its continental shelf to the Commission. The Government refers to the decision of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (SPLOS/5, para. 20), which states:

> "It was agreed that the election of the members of the Commission would be postponed till March 1997, with the proviso that should any State which is already a Party to the Convention by 16 May 1996 be affected adversely in respect of its obligations under article 4 of Annex II to the Convention as a consequence of the change in the date of the election, States Parties, at the request of such a State, would review the situation with a view to ameliorating the difficulty in respect of that obligation."

2. The notes were forwarded to the President of the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The President of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties has requested the Secretariat to circulate the attached notes verbales (see annexes I and II) at the current Meeting of States Parties under item 15 of the provisional agenda, entitled "Issues with respect to article 4 of Annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea".

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Annex I

Note verbale dated 29 December 2000 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has the honour to refer to the correspondence dated 19 October 1998 from the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea in relation to the extension of time on submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Following the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Law of the Sea, it was agreed that States adversely affected by the postponement of the election of members of the Commission until March 1997 could apply for an extension of time in which to submit their proposals to the Commission.

The Government of Seychelles is of the opinion that it was adversely affected by the late election of members of the Commission on the Continental Shelf, and hereby requests that consideration be given to an extension of time in which to submit particulars of the outer limits of the continental shelf to the Commission.

Annex II

Note verbale dated 6 October 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has the honour to refer to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (UNCLOS).

The Republic of Seychelles, having ratified UNCLOS, is in the process of undertaking the steps necessary to comply with articles 74 and 76 of the Convention and with article 4 of Annex II, on the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, by completing the delimitation of its land and marine territory.

In this context, the Government of Seychelles would be most appreciative if the Secretary-General, through the secretariat of UNCLOS, could advise whether and when there has been a revision of the date of commencement of the 10 years' grace period for submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, as defined in article 4 of Annex II to the Convention.